

# Drifffield Rural District Council.

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1923

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Drifffield Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my Annual Report for 1923.

This is again an " Ordinary " Report, and therefore limited in its scope. The information here given, and the arrangement of the Report generally, are in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

The past year has been, in many respects, a very good one from the public health point of view.

The Birth Rate, in common with the country as a whole, continues to decline, the past year showing a considerable fall. It is still, however, slightly above that for the whole of England and Wales.

The Death Rate remains about the average of the past three years and is slightly above the average for England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is below the average of the whole country.

The number of cases of notifiable infectious disease is considerably below the average. With the exception of the Garton area, where the bulk of the cases occurred, it may be said that the health of the district, so far as notifiable diseases are concerned, is satisfactory.

### 1—General Statistics.

Area of the Rural District (acres)	106,417
Population (1921 Census)	11,646
„ (1923, Registrar General's Estimate)	11,730
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	2,750
Number of families or separate occupiers	2,762
Rateable Value	£128,663
Sum represented by a penny rate	£254

### 2—Extracts from Vital Statistics, 1923.

The Registrar General Estimates the population of the district for the purpose of arriving at the Birth and Death Rates, at 11,730. This figure is an increase of 40 on last year.

#### BIRTHS.

During the past year there were 235 births registered, of these, 118 were boys and 117 girls.

The Birth Rate for the year is 20 per 1000 per annum. This compares with 22.3 and 22.4 in the two preceding years.

The Birth Rate for the total population of England and Wales in 1923 is 19.7.

The Births may be classified as follows :—

	Total	Boys	Girls
Legitimate Births	217	108	109
Illegitimate Births	18	10	8
	<hr/> 235	<hr/> 113	<hr/> 117

The illegitimate birth-rate is 1 53 per 1000 of the population.

### DEATHS.

There were 140 deaths during the year, of which 77 were males and 63 females.

This gives a Death Rate for the year of 11.9 per 1000 per annum, as compared with 11.4 and 12.1 in the two preceding years.

The Death Rate for England and Wales in 1923 is 11.6.

There were 13 deaths of Infants under one year of age, which may be sub-divided as follows :—

		Rate per 1000 births
Legitimate	9	41.5
Illegitimate	4	222 2

The Infant Mortality Rate for the total births is 55.3 per 1000 births per annum, as compared with 69 for the whole of England and Wales.

There were four deaths from Diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age. This gives a rate per 1000 births of 17. The equivalent rate for England and Wales in 1923 is 7.7.

The following are the causes of death :—

	Total	Males	Females
Whooping Cough	1	0	1
Influenza	4	2	2
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	7	4	3
„ (non-respiratory)	1	1	0
Cancer, malignant disease	16	10	6
Rheumatic fever	1	0	1
Diabetes	3	1	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc	3	0	3
Heart disease	21	10	11
Arterio-Sclerosis	5	5	0
Bronchitis	9	5	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	3	7
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	2	0
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years of age)	4	4	0
Appendicitis and typhlitis	1	0	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	3	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis	1	0	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	2	0	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	3	2	1
Violence (not suicide)	4	3	1
Other defined diseases	38	22	16
	<hr/> 140	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 63



### 3—Notifiable Diseases.

There were 48 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. This number includes 23 cases of Chicken-pox, which was not a notifiable disease in previous years. Deducting these for the purpose of comparison, there remain 25 cases of the ordinary notifiable diseases, as compared with 56 in 1922 and 60 in 1921,—a very satisfactory decrease.

Excluding chicken-pox, diphtheria still remains the chief of the notifiable diseases, there having been 14 cases during the year. This compares with 23 and 19 in the two preceding years. With the exception of one case which occurred at Warley Cross, on the S. E. boundary of the district, all the cases occurred in the comparatively small area between Garton and Little Driffeld. At Garton six cases occurred in January and one in May, and at Little Driffeld five occurred in September and one in December. There seems little doubt that, whatever the original cause of the outbreak may be, most of the cases arose through contact, either with a previous case or with an apparently healthy "carrier." In January the Schools at Garton were closed for a fortnight and immediately the disease ceased to spread, and no further cases occurred with the exception of an odd case in May. The same may be said regarding the outbreak at Little Driffeld. Three of the cases were children in the same home. Preventive measures against the outbreak and spread of diphtheria are very difficult and I can only repeat that the most direct method at present known is to render the susceptible child immune by innoculation.

Scarlet fever still maintains the satisfactory decrease I reported a year ago, only one case having been notified. This compares with 5 in 1922 and 19 in 1921.

Tuberculosis also shows a satisfactory decrease there having been 6 cases notified, compared with 18 in 1922 and 12 in 1921.

The notified cases may be classified as follows :—

	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	14	14	0
Scarlet Fever	1	1	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Chicken-pox	23	0	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Respiratory { Males	4	3	1
{ Females	0	0	0
Non-respiratory { Males	1	0	0
{ Females	1	0	0

The case rate of the following notifiable diseases per 1000 living in the district may be compared with the equivalent rate for England and Wales :—

	In District	England and Wales
Diphtheria	1.19	1.04
Scarlet Fever	0.08	2.23
Enteric Fever	0.08	0.08
Erysipelas	0.17	0.32

In addition to the 6 cases of Tuberculosis notified, one case was admitted to Raywell Sanatorium for observation and discharged during the year.

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year was 8, of which 3 had not been notified previously as suffering from the disease.

The case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified was treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

Owing to the prevalence of Smallpox in the country Chicken-pox was made compulsorily notifiable as from January 22nd, 1923. No cases of Smallpox occurred in the district.

## 4—Causes of Sickness.

There have not been any causes of sickness and invalidity in the district during the year which are specially noteworthy. Generally speaking, the year was a healthy one.

It will be observed that Cancer and Malignant disease caused a large proportion of the deaths,—11.4 per cent. of the total deaths. There were 16 cases, as compared with 11 and 16 in the two preceding years.

## 5—Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, etc.

(FOR REFERENCE).

**Professional Nursing in the Home.** There are no arrangements for the nursing of general and infectious cases in which the Local Authority or County Council are directly concerned. The East Riding Nurses' Home, situated in the Driffeld Urban area, which is a private institution, supplies general and maternity nurses to subscribers in the district, in common with a large part of the East Riding. A staff of about 40 nurses is maintained.

**Mid-wives.** The Public Health Authority does not employ or subsidize mid-wives.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

**(a) Maternity and Child Welfare.** There is a Welfare Home in Driffeld, which serves the Rural District as well as the Town. There are a few beds for lying-in cases. A reception is held once a fortnight and the babies are inspected and weighed and advice given as to their feeding and general care. There is a resident Health Visitor who is fully qualified to attend cases of confinement. The County Council Health Visitors visit cases of expectant and nursing mothers and children and are authorised to order milk and such other foods as they consider necessary.

**(b) School Clinics.** The School Medical Officers visit the Schools from time to time and examine the scholars.

**(c) Tuberculosis Clinics.** None in the district. All suitable cases are admitted to Raywell Sanatorium.

**(d) Venereal Diseases.** There are no clinics in the district. Cases may be treated at the Royal Infirmary, Hull, or at the County Hospital, York, free of charge. There appears to be very little venereal disease in the district and the above arrangements seem to be adequate.



**Hospitals** There are no hospitals within the district.

(1) **Tuberculosis.** The County Council's Sanatorium at Raywell supplies the needs of the district in common with the rest of the East Riding.

(2) **Maternity.** The Maternity and Child Welfare home, Driffield, has a few beds available for lying-in cases. This Home is under the control of the County Council.

(3) **Children.** Cases are generally sent to the Royal Infirmary, Hull.

(4) **Fever.** There is an Isolation Hospital for infectious cases in the Urban District of Driffield, which serves the needs of the greater part of the East Riding. It is under the control of the County Council.

(5) **Smallpox.** The County Council maintains a Smallpox Hospital in the Pocklington area, which serves the needs of the district.

(6) **Other.** The Cottage Hospital, Driffield, takes in medical cases and accidents and a few surgical cases. The East Riding Hostel for Rescue and Preventive Work has recently been opened in Driffield for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children. Provision is also made for these cases at Driffield Workhouse.

**Ambulance Facilities.** A motor ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Driffield, for the transport of cases of infectious disease. For non-infectious and accident cases, there is a Red Cross Ambulance at Beverley, which is convenient for the removal of cases to the Royal Infirmary, Hull.

## 6—Laboratory Work.

Arrangements are in force whereby pathological and bacteriological specimens may be sent by medical practitioners to the Clinical Research Association, London, for examination for diagnostical purposes.

During the year 23 throat and nasal swabs were examined for diphtheria, of which 9 were found to be positive and 14 negative.

Nine specimens of Sputum were examined for Tuberculosis, of which 2 proved positive and 7 negative.

Five samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, 2 showed the presence of excremental organisms in dangerous amount, and the rest were of excellent quality. The two unsatisfactory samples were obtained respectively from the old well at Butterwick, which has since been replaced by a new well, and the West End well at Tibthorpe which is not in use.

One sample of drinking water (Butterwick new well) was submitted for chemical analysis and found to be satisfactory.

In cases of suspected food poisoning, samples of food, vomit, etc., are now examined by the Pathological Department of the Ministry of Health. This replaces the previous arrangements, and came into force on April 1st, 1924. No cases have occurred in the district during the year.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin in vials of 8,000 units for treatment and 500 units for prophylaxis, is maintained at the Council's Offices, Exchange St., Driffield, and may be obtained by medical practitioners at any hour of the day or night on application to the caretaker.

## 7.—Sanitary Administration.

The following Adoptive Acts, bye-laws and local regulations relating to the public health are in force in the district, with the dates of adoption :—

Adopted 18th Nov., 1909. Part 5 and certain sections in parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1907.

Adopted 31st, March, 1913. Sub. Sect. (3) of Section 23 and Sections 25 and 33 of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890.

Adopted 5th April, 1900. Scavenging Byelaws.

Adopted 10th April, 1913 Building Byelaws.

Adopted 1st Oct., 1903 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Regulations.

Adopted 22nd Jan., 1923. Compulsory notification of Chickenpox

The following new work was carried out during the year :—

### Sewerage.

A new manhole has been constructed to the automatic pumping chamber in Station Road, Nafferton. This was necessary in order to facilitate the cleaning out of the chamber, which was previously impossible without dismantling the pump.

A new manhole has also been made on the main drain in Station Road, Nafferton, to facilitate the cleaning out of the drain.

A portion of the main drain at the North End, Middleton, was re-laid during the year. This was necessary owing to the drain becoming blocked through the breaking of the pipes.

### Water Supplies.

The new bore and borehole pump at Butterwick was completed during the year. An abundant and permanent supply of excellent water was found at about 90 feet depth. The old well, which was contaminated, has been sealed with concrete.

A new rain water cistern and hand pump was installed at Wetwang during the year. The capacity of the cistern is about 8,000 gallons and it takes the rain water from the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Station Road. The cistern is necessary owing to the serious lack of water at Wetwang during times of drought.

During the year it was decided to provide a new public water supply for the village of Garton, owing to contamination of the existing shallow wells. After considering various schemes, three deep bores were decided on, and since the end of the year under review the new work has been commenced. The East End well in the village was closed.

The following tabular statement of Sanitary Administration has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector as well as that on Housing under Section 9, as required by the Ministry of Health :—

Dwelling Houses inspected	171
do. notices served (informal)	109
do. do. (statutory)	none
New houses built	16
Have Building Byelaws been adopted ?	Yes
Dwelling houses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	15
do do do phthisis	3
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	none



Dwelling houses found overcrowded	4
Privies converted to W.C's.	2
do to Pail Closets	17
Offensive trades inspected	7
Total number of nuisances found	48
do do abated	48

### Water Supplies.

Houses newly supplied from water mains	1
New wells made	1
New bore wells made	13
Wells closed, water unsafe	2
Samples of water sent for examination	6
Water certificates granted for new houses	none

### Dairies and Cowsheds

Have regulations been adopted?	Yes
Date of adoption	Oct. 1st, 1903
Number of dairies and cowsheds on Register	66
Number of cows	400
Visit to cowsheds	101
do dairies	2
Defects found	26
do remedied	26

### Slaughter Houses.

Number on Register	13
do visits to	32
do defects found	7
do do remedied	7

Unwholesome food condemned None

Common Lodging Houses None

Canal Boats inspected 8

## 8—Public Health Staff.

The staff consists of the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor.

These are all part-time appointments, with the exception of the Sanitary Inspector.

The other public Offices held by the staff are as follows:—The Clerk, Clerk to the Guardians; the M.O.H., Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Guardians; the Sanitary Surveyor, Highways Surveyor.

Half of the Salaries of the M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector is provided by Exchequer Grant.

## 9—Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	16
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923	0

**1—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection**

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	171
(2) Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	113
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	17

**2—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	16
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**3—Action under Statutory Powers**

None

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

MARSHALL HAVER, M B.

DRIFFIELD,

April 20th, 1924.